

JP 07-289,778 -

S-3

(103)

---

Translated from Japanese by the Ralph McElroy Co., Custom Division  
P.O. Box 4828, Austin, Texas 78765 USA

Agents:

Isao Sasaki,  
patent attorney,  
and 1 other

[There are no amendments to this patent.]

### Abstract

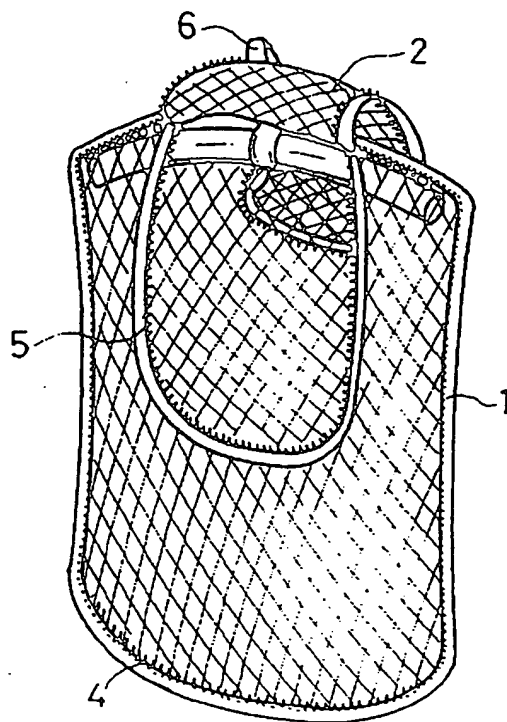
#### Objective

To offer a laundry net convenient for handling, characterized by the following features: the net itself will not entangle or fold easily, that is, it is prevented from changing from its original shape (deformation). In the net, it will be safe to wash sweaters and other thick clothing as there will be no entangled wool or deformation. The rest of the laundry will not get entwined in the net, either. Also, a piece of laundry can be hung on a hanger and washed and dried in this state.

#### Constitution

A desired-size net main body (1), an open-and-close lid (2) which is opened on said net main body (1), and a hanger (3) which is installed in the longitudinal direction at the top end of the aforementioned net main body (1) are provided. Said hanger (3) is comprised by wrapping outer covering material around the surface of a buoyant flexible core material, and is attached to the net main body (1) in a replaceable manner by means of a string-shaped ring member (6) which is sewn in such a manner that one end

protrudes at the top end of the net main body (1) and the other end extends into the net main body (1).



### Claims

1. Laundry net used when washing clothes in a washer, characterized by the fact that it comprises a net main body which is formed into a size large enough to contain a piece of laundry such as a sweater without folding it, an open-and-close lid which is attached to a desired position of said net main body, a fastener which is sewn on both top and bottom ends of the aforementioned net main body so as to fold and fasten the net

main body into two, a string-formed ring member which protrudes at the center of the top end of the aforementioned net main body, and a hanger which is installed in the aforementioned net main body.

2. Laundry net in accordance with Claim 1, characterized by the fact that the aforementioned hanger is formed of a buoyant flexible core material.

3. Laundry net in accordance with Claim 1 or 2, characterized by the fact that the aforementioned hanger is comprised by wrapping an outer covering material such as a tape on the surface of the flexible core material, which is formed into a desired shape.

4. Laundry net in accordance with Claim 1, 2 or 3, characterized by the fact that the aforementioned hanger is installed along the longitudinal direction at the top end of the aforementioned net main body and is also attached to the lower end of the aforementioned string-formed ring member which extends in the net main body.

#### Detailed explanation of the invention

[0001]

#### Industrial application field

The present invention pertains to an improvement of a laundry net. In more detail, it pertains to a laundry net convenient for handling, characterized by the following features: the net itself will not entangle or fold easily, that is, it is

prevented from changing from its original shape (deformation). In the net, it will be safe to wash sweaters and other thick clothing as there will be no entangled wool or deformation. Also, a piece of laundry can be hung on a hanger and be washed and dried in this state.

[0002]

Prior art

Previously, as such a laundry net, for instance, one with a constitution disclosed in Japanese Kokai Utility Model No. Hei 3[1991]-49789 has already been known as a conventional example. This conventional laundry net which has been available is a laundry net with a hanger comprised of an open-and-close fastener which is installed on the top part of a mesh-formed laundry net, a hanger which is installed inside of the aforementioned laundry net and which has a hook attached on one end, and a handle which is installed on top of the aforementioned laundry net (see Japanese Kokai Utility Model No. Hei 3[1991]-49789).

[0003]

Problems to be solved by the invention

However, the aforementioned conventional laundry net with a hanger has the following problems: because the aforementioned hanger is a so-called binder system which contains the laundry

with a two-fold hook, it can only fit and hold a relatively thin laundry material such as underwear. It cannot be used for a thick piece of laundry such as a sweater. Besides, when it is inserted in a washing tub, the net main body does not float on the wash water but is tossed about in the swirling wash water. In addition, the aforementioned hook freely moves around in the net main body. Thus, the net main body itself would get entangled, easily folded or be altered from original form (deformation).

[0004]

Besides, because a large handle which extends over the longitudinal direction at the top end of the aforementioned laundry net is installed, other laundry which floats in the tub would easily enter between the aforementioned laundry net and the handle and get entwined with the laundry net.

[0005]

The present invention was made considering such problems of the prior art. Its objective is a laundry net convenient for handling, characterized by the following features: the net itself will not be entangled or folded easily, that is, it is prevented from changing from its original shape (deformation). In the net, it will be safe to wash sweaters and other thick clothing as there will be no entangled wool or deformation. The other laundry will not get entwined in the net, either. Also, a piece of laundry can be hung on a hanger and be washed and dried in this state.

[0006]

Means to solve the problems

To solve the problems of the prior art as described above and to realize the expected objective, the constitution which is the main point of the present invention is as follows: in terms of a laundry net which is used when washing clothes in a washer, the laundry net comprises a net main body which is formed into a size large enough to contain a piece of laundry such as a sweater without folding it, an open-and-close lid which is attached to a desired position of said net main body, a fastener which is sewn on both top and bottom ends of the aforementioned net main body so as to fold and fasten the net main body in two, a string-formed ring member which protrudes at the center of the top end of the aforementioned net main body, and a hanger which is installed in the aforementioned net main body.

[0007]

The aforementioned hanger is preferably formed of a buoyant flexible core material, and in its turn, one comprised by attaching an outer covering material such as a tape on the surface of the flexible core material which is formed into a desired shape is preferred.

[0008]

Furthermore, the hanger is installed extending in the longitudinal direction at the top end of the aforementioned net main body, and is preferably attached to the lower end of the aforementioned string-formed ring member which extends in the net main body.

[0009]

#### Function

As the laundry net of the present invention constituted as described above comprises a net main body which is formed into a size large enough to contain a piece of laundry such as a sweater without folding it, an open-and-close lid which is attached to a desired position of said net main body, a fastener which is sewn on both top and bottom ends of the aforementioned net main body so as to fold and fasten the net main body in two, a string-formed ring member which protrudes at the center of the top end of the aforementioned net main body, and a hanger which is installed in the aforementioned net main body, a sweater or the like can be washed whole by simply hanging the laundry such as a sweater on the aforementioned hanger, inserting it in the aforementioned laundry net, and fastening the fastening member such as the aforementioned fastener. After washing, it can be dried in the same state simply by protruding the aforementioned small string-formed ring part outside. It will not get entwined with the other laundry, either.



[0010]

If the aforementioned hanger is formed of a buoyant flexible core material, and in turn, has an outer covering material such as a tape attached on the surface of the flexible core material which is formed into a desired shape, it can be placed in the washing tub along with the other laundry without damaging the other laundry. Furthermore, because the aforementioned hanger would float on the wash water and constantly remain at the top, the laundry such as a sweater will be prevented from easily falling off of the hanger.

[0011]

Furthermore, if the hanger is attached to the lower end of the aforementioned string-formed ring member which is installed extending in the longitudinal direction at the top end of the aforementioned net main body and also extends in the net main body, particularly, in a state where the net main body is folded in two, even if it is tossed about in the swirling wash water, the aforementioned hanger would not move about freely in the net main body but would act as a core material of the net main body. Thus, original form changes (deformation) such as entangling of the net main body itself or being easily folded can be prevented.

[0012]

Application example

Next, an application example of the present invention shall be explained in reference to the figures. In the figures, (A) is a laundry net according to the present invention. This laundry net (A) comprises a net main body (1) which is formed into a vertically long rectangular shape, an open-and-close lid (2) which is installed in front of said net main body (1), and a hanger (3) which is installed in the aforementioned net main body (1).

[0013]

The aforementioned net main body (1) is composed of a rough mesh of net which is knit with flexible synthetic resin filaments such as polyester. It is formed into a size large enough for a piece of laundry such as a sweater to be inserted without being folded. On both top and bottom ends of this net main body (1), the fasteners (4), (4) are sewn on to fasten the net main body (1) folded in two.

[0014]

The aforementioned open-and-close lid (2) is comprised by being cut into a U shape in front of the aforementioned net main body (1) from the top end side. It is installed on the net main body (1) in a manner such that it can be freely removed, and

opened or closed by means of a fastener (5) on the free end rim of the slit.

[0015]

On one hand, a string-formed ring member (6) protrudes at the center at the top end of the aforementioned net main body (1). This string-formed ring member (6) is for inserting a clothesline or to hook on one. It is formed of a soft string material so as not to damage other laundry (specifically, thin laundry material such as stockings) that are floating in the tub when it is inserted in the washing tub.

[0016]

This string-formed ring member (6) is sewn onto the aforementioned net main body (1) such that the lower end will extend into the net main body (1). On this lower end, the hanger (3) is hooked in a freely removable manner.

[0017]

This hanger (3) is composed of a foam resin flexible core material (3a) which is formed into a pole shape and a floating lever-shaped body comprised by wrapping an outer covering material (3b) such as a tape around the surface of the flexible core material (3a). It floats in the washing tub so that the top end of the net main body (1) will constantly be at the top. It also prevents the net main body (1) itself from making original

form changes (deformation) such as being entangled or being easily folded.

[0018]

Therefore, as illustrated in Figure 3, with the laundry net (A) of the present invention which is constituted as described above, ~~after opening the fastener (5) of the open-and-close lid~~ (2), a thick piece of clothing such as a sweater is hung on the hanger (3) in the net main body (1), and the whole thing is simply placed in a washing tub after closing the fastener (5). Then, it will be safe to wash the sweater or the like without entangling the wool or causing deformation. After washing, it can be removed from the tub in that state. In other words, the laundry can be dried while it is still hung on the hanger (3) in the net main body (1).

[0019]

When the net main body (1) is placed in a washing tub, as illustrated in Figure 6, it can be folded in two and the fasteners (4), (4) can be closed so that it can be washed in a more compact state. Furthermore, during the wash, when such a laundry net is put in the wash water, even if the load of the laundry filled in the aforementioned net main body (1) is applied downward, the net main body (1) will float such that the top end will constantly be at the top. Besides, because of the intervention of the hanger (3), even if it is tossed about in the swirling wash water, the original form changes (deformation) of

the net main body (1) itself such as entangling or being easily folded shall be prevented.

[0020]

Furthermore, because the aforementioned string-formed ring member (6) is a small ring formed of a soft string material, even if it is tossed about in the swirling wash water, it will not be easily entangled with the other laundry or catch a thin piece of laundry such as stockings.

[0021]

The laundry net of the present invention is not limited to the present application example. The designs can be freely varied within the range of the objective of the present invention. The present invention includes all such variations. For instance, in the present application example, a vertically long rectangular net main body (1) is used. However, the shape is not limited to this example. Any shape of net main body (1) such as triangular or circular may also be used.

[0022]

#### Effect of the invention

The present invention is constituted as described above, and can offer a convenient laundry net characterized by the following features: as it comprises a net main body which is formed into a

size large enough to contain a piece of laundry such as a sweater without folding it, an open-and-close lid which is attached to a desired position of said net main body, a fastener which is sewn on both top and bottom ends of the aforementioned net main body so as to fold and fasten the net main body in two, a string-formed ring member which protrudes at the center of the top end of the aforementioned net main body, and a hanger which is installed in the aforementioned net main body, it will be safe to wash a thick piece of clothing such as a sweater without entangling the wool or deformation [occurring]. In addition, the laundry can be washed while it is hung on the hanger and can also be dried in this state.

[0023]

Also, if the aforementioned hanger is formed of a buoyant flexible core material which is comprised by installing an outer covering material such as a tape around the surface of a flexible core material which is formed into a desired shape, and in turn, the hanger is installed along the longitudinal direction at the top end of the aforementioned net main body, and is also attached to the lower end of the aforementioned string-formed ring member which extends in the net main body, the aforementioned hanger will float on top of the wash water at the time of washing and thus be constantly positioned at the top. As a result, the laundry such as a sweater will be prevented from easily falling off of the hanger. In addition, with the intervention of the hanger, even if it is tossed about in the swirling wash water, original form changes (deformation) of the net main body itself

such as being entangled or it being easily folded can be prevented. Thus, the invention has the aforementioned excellent effect.

#### Brief description of the figures

Figure 1 is a front view of a laundry net in accordance with the present invention.

Figure 2 is a diagonal view of the laundry net.

Figure 3 is a diagonal view which illustrates an opened state of the laundry net.

Figure 4 is a back view of the laundry net.

Figure 5 is an explanatory diagram which illustrates how the hanger is installed.

Figure 6 is a diagonal view which illustrates how the laundry net is used when it is folded in two.

#### Explanation of symbols

- 1 Net main body
- 2 Open and close lid
- 3 Hanger
- 3a Flexible core material
- 3b Outer covering material
- 4 Fastener
- 5 Fastener
- 6 Ring member

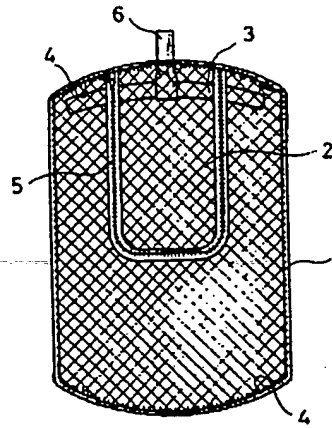


Figure 1

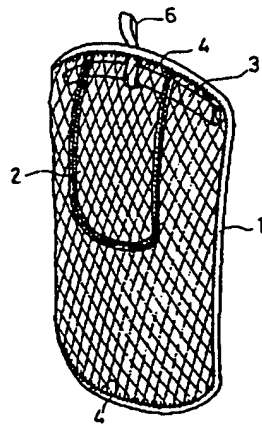


Figure 2



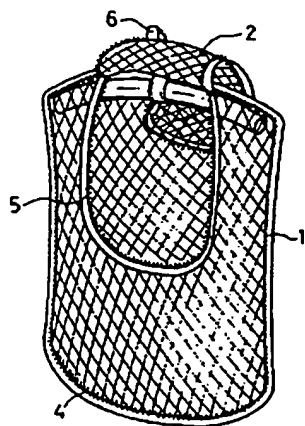


Figure 3

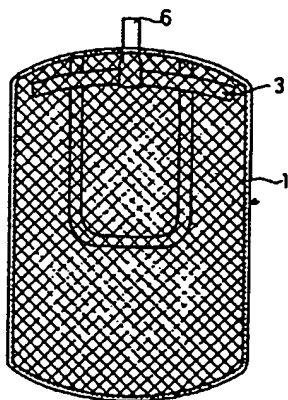


Figure 4

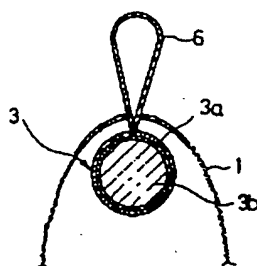


Figure 5\*

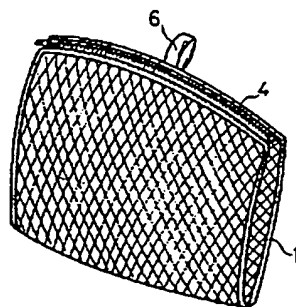


Figure 6

---

\* [Editor's note: in Figure 5, 3a should be 3b and vice versa.]